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## NEWS RELEASE

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December 30, 2002

### **Weekend Marijuana Seizures Net 1,628 Pounds**

*1,359 Pounds Netted in Single Seizure Near La Casita, Texas*

**McALLEN, Texas** – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector seized 1,628 pounds of marijuana, in twelve separate seizures valued at \$1,302,400 over the last three days from Dec. 27 to Dec. 29, 2002.

Border Patrol Agents working in various stations were busy the last three days with significant marijuana seizures. Falfurrias, Kingsville, McAllen, and Rio Grande City Border Patrol stations were all instrumental in these seizures.

On Dec. 27, McAllen Sector Agents seized a total of 1,383 pounds of marijuana valued at \$1,106,400 in three separate seizures involving the Falfurrias and Rio Grande City Stations.

On Dec. 28, Agents seized a total of 214 pounds of marijuana valued at \$171,200 in seven separate seizures involving the Falfurrias, Kingsville and McAllen Stations.

On Dec. 29, Agents seized a total of 31 pounds of marijuana valued at \$24,800 in 2 separate seizures involving the Falfurrias and Rio Grande City Stations.

Of the 1,383 pounds seized on Friday, Dec. 27, 1,359 pounds valued at \$1,087,200 was seized in a single incident at approximately 5:45 p.m. near La Casita, Texas. Agents of the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station made the seizure after encountering several individuals near the bank of the Rio Grande River. When the agents encountering the individuals, the individuals fled the scene by jumping into the river and swimming back to Mexico. Agents searched the area and discovered 17 large sugar sacks containing 71 bundles of marijuana. The marijuana was wrapped in clear cellophane and brown packing tape. No arrests were made. The marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency for disposition.

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